JAVIER COLON, LIFE AFTER 'THE VOICE'
MUSIC {page 08}

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Can't pay tuition? Sugar daddy helps

● 'Mutually beneficial' website claims hundreds of Boston students are seeking rich benefactors in exchange for their companionship ● Creator says 35 percent of 800K members are female coeds ● User from UMass says site is misleading {page 02}

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

Celebration. Happy 185th birthday

Being old never tasted so good. The storied Union Oyster House celebrated its 185th anniversary yesterday. Mayor Thomas Menino joined the owners of downtown restaurant, the Milano family, to celebrate the occasion with a 20-by-30-foot cake and lunch menu items for $1.85. City officials said the Union Oyster House is the oldest restaurant in continuous service in the country. METRO

News

Witnesses: 1-year-old punched

● T bus passengers say mom hit infant son in the mouth ● They surrounded woman until cops arrived {page 03}

Baby, it's hot out there ...

So sit inside and play video games. The top downloadable Xbox games {page 12}

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Cash strapped? Talk to 'daddy'

- Site connects financially challenged cuties with money-holding men
- Boston students among those seeking 'mutually beneficial' assistance

SeekingArrangement™.com
the Elite Sugar Daddy Dating site
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USERNAME (Email)
PASSWORD
Forgot Password?
What's An Arrangement | How It Works | Why This Works | FAQ | Media | Blog | JOIN NOW | Login
Step 2 of 3: Select Type of Account
YOU SELECTED THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT FOR YOURSELF. IS THIS CORRECT?
Sugar Daddy
Wealthy Man
Ready to spoil & pamper
Sugar Baby (M)
Male Sugar Baby
Wants to be pampered
Sugar Mommy
Wealthy Woman
Ready to spoil & pamper
Sugar Baby (F)
Female Sugar Baby
Wants to be pampered

▶ SeekingArrangement.com asks the user to select an account profile. Which one would you be?

PHOTO COMPOSITE

Some Hub honeys are searching for sugar online and tapping into a dating website that promises to pit them with wealthy men willing to pay for college tuition expenses in exchange for some company.

Brandon Wade, founder and CEO of Seeking Arrangement.com, a website that claims it connects "Sugar Daddies" with "Sugar Babies" to form "mutually beneficial arrangements," started the site in 2006.

An MIT grad and former Boston resident, Wade said other dating sites were horrible, so he started his own.

Now, more than 800,000 registered users are logged on — and 35 percent are female students looking to trade their time for college cash.

"There is nothing wrong with wanting to date a wealthy man or a beautiful girl, and that's what this site is about," he said. "If there is chemistry, there will be sex. Whether it's a Christian dating site or Match.com. You go there to find intimacy."

Wade said the site doesn't promote prostitution and his staff filters out members that abuse the service.

But a 23-year-old UMass Boston student, who didn't want her name used, said in her experience most of the men wanted sex for money.

"Out of the 50 guys I've talked to I would say 40 of them want to pay for play," she said. "It's dangerous if you are naïve, or someone that doesn't really care about what they do to get what they need to get."

The student went on one date with a married man who she said offered her life advice but didn't ask for intimacy.

"I'm not going to sleep with someone for money," she said. "The goal would be someone to be a mentor, with a loan situation, but I'm not looking to be sexual with anybody."

STEVE ANNEAR
steve.annear@metro.us

EDUCATION OPTION.COM

FOR AND AGAINST

IS IT OK TO WANT TO HAVE A SUGAR DADDY? TWO OF METRO'S FEMALE STAFFERS SPEAK UP.

218 Wade claims this many registered students on his site currently attend or previously attended Harvard University.

In the news

Ask the GM

Got a question about the T you've always wanted to ask? Here's your chance. E-mail questions for MBTA general manager Rich Davey to letters@metro.us or send a tweet to @MetroBOS. Your question could appear in an upcoming edition.

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IDRIS ELBA TALKS 'THOR'

▶ B-day buddies

Patrick to celebrate Obama's birthday

BOSTON. What's a birthday party without some close friends? Gov. Deval Patrick will travel to Washington, D.C. this afternoon to help President Barack Obama celebrate his 50th birthday. Patrick will attend a reception in the Rose Garden at the White House, according to his schedule. METRO

Blind man's murder trial begins

BOSTON. A 20-year-old blind Brighton man's murder trial is moving forward after he was examined yesterday. A court clinician deemed that Luis Marquez is able to assist with his defense during his murder trial, according to the Boston Herald. Marquez allegedly stabbed and beat Terri Werner, 56, three years ago. Werner worked at the Perkins School for the Blind. METRO

Missing woman found dead

MALDEN. A Malden woman missing for a day was found dead in a Maine lake yesterday afternoon. Authorities said Kathleen Whitehouse, 47, was missing since Tuesday afternoon and was presumed to have drowned, according to WMTW-TV. Search dogs, planes and divers looked for Whitehouse in Stanley Pond in Hiram. METRO

Hub gets biking award

Just days after Boston launched its bicycle sharing program, the city was recognized for being a bike-friendly community.

Mayor Thomas Menino and the city were recognized yesterday by the League of American Bicyclists for active efforts in encouraging cycling within Boston.

The city was awarded the Silver Bicycle Friendly Community award.

The awards are designated for a period of four years with renewal requirements.

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Children's Hospital Boston tied for the top honors of most bike-friendly businesses in the Hub.

METRO

Teen charged with yelling 'jump' at suicidal man

A Salem teen pleaded guilty this week to telling a suicidal man to jump during a confrontation with police.

David Duchesne, 19, pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct and was fined $150, according to The Salem News.

Duchesne yelled "jump" at the man who had fled from police and onto a Beverly roof where he remained in a standoff for hours until coming down Monday.

Another man was also charged with the same crime, but pleaded not guilty. METRO

Mother charged with punching 1-year-old son

Incident occurred while she tried to feed him on T bus Riders circled woman to keep her from walking away Mom told cops her hand slipped

Ryan

A 25-year-old Roxbury mother was ordered to have no contact with her 1-year-old son after allegedly punching him in the face while traveling on a T bus.

Erica Ryan was charged with domestic assault and battery for the incident aboard the Route 23 bus as it traveled through Roxbury on Tuesday afternoon.

She told police that her hand slipped while she was feeding her son and she hit him.

However, witnesses told Transit police that the mother became aggravated on the bus.

Witnesses "all stated Ms. Ryan was cussing at her son calling him a 'mother [expletive]' ... while she was trying to feed him," according to a police report.

$500

Erica Ryan was ordered held on $500 cash bail for the assault on her infant son. Prosecutors requested that she be held on $25,000 bail, but a judge disagreed.

A witness then said she punched her son in the mouth.

A group of "hostile" people on the bus surrounded Ryan until police arrived, according to the report.

Police said when they separated the group from Ryan she fled down the street holding her son saying, "No one is going to take away my baby."

"This is when I observed dry [sic] blood around her son's mouth and his eyes to be watery and inflamed as if he was just crying," police wrote in their report.

A T spokesman said a video of the incident would not be released because of the "active nature" of the investigation.

The boy was treated at Boston Medical Center and released to another family member in Boston.

MICHAEL NAUGHTON
michael.naughton@metro.us

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Cigarette leads to murder charge two decades later

- Woman, 87, was beaten and strangled in South End
- DNA collected from cigarette led police to suspect

A 21-year-old cigarette butt led to yesterday's charges against a former South End man who allegedly killed an 87-year-old woman two decades ago.

Charles Brook Jr., 66, pleaded not guilty to the murder of Zahia Salem during his arraignment yesterday.

Salem was found bloodied, battered and strangled in her South End apartment in November 1989. The investigation never led to a suspect, authorities said, but investigators were able to collect material from scrapings underneath Salem's fingernails and a cigarette butt found in a saucer. Authorities said she did not smoke.

▶ Salem

The cold case was reopened by investigators from the Boston Police Department and the Suffolk district attorney's office. A DNA profile was developed from the cigarette and a match led them to Brook.

Brook was already in jail and had to submit DNA from a 1991 felony conviction.

"This case shows the power and promise of DNA technology as a proven crime-solving tool," said Suffolk District Attorney Daniel Conley.

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NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

Green. Ice pops

▶ Newbury Street was one of the stops the truck made yesterday.

We all scream for solar energy

A solar-powered ice-pop truck cruised Hub side streets yesterday promoting its launch in the Northeast region. Sungevity, a self-proclaimed "customer-centric" residential solar company that helps get panels on people's roofs at an affordable cost, is driving around Boston toting its solar solution to energy cost increases. The biodiesel, solar-powered ice-pop truck will continue touring Beantown and surrounding communities today. STEVE ANNEAR

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ADVERTORIAL

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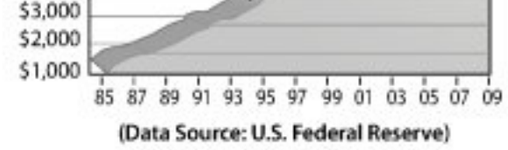
Tom Hill
CGA STAFF WRITER

Every three minutes another person falls behind on credit card debt. It's no wonder, since every major credit card company has nearly doubled the minimum monthly payment on consumers' bills. Federal Regulators forced the change because of their concern about the growing mountain of consumer debt, which stands at $2.17 trillion. Many consumers can only pay the minimum payment, which can take up to 30 years to pay off. Now, relief is in sight for millions of Americans.

U.S. CREDIT CARD DEBT PER HOUSEHOLD ($)



(Data Source: U.S. Federal Reserve)

CreditGUARD of America, a non-profit licensed debt management service provider, is making a new program available to lower debt payments and become free of all credit card debt in only three to five years. Consumers need only $2,000 or more in total credit card debt and falling behind on any account, to cut their payment by 35% to 50%, and reduce or eliminate interest charges altogether.

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myentertainment

THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

Ripa keeping mum on Regis replacement

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

Kelly Ripa isn't too concerned with trying to find a replacement for her famed co-host **Regis Philbin** when he leaves "Live! with Regis and Kelly" at the end of November. "All I want to do is enjoy and celebrate his legacy," she told Metro while co-hosting Super Saturday 14, an annual benefit for the Ovarian Cancer Research Fund on Saturday in Water Mill, N.Y. "After he leaves, we'll worry about getting a guy or gal in there." But she did tell the throng of reporters that the change-up won't be boring. "I don't think there will be a Regis replacement — I think it will be a totally new person."

—Additional reporting by Jeryl Brunner

▶ Note that Ripa said, "guy or gal." Could Regis' replacement be a lady?

Quoted

"I was so sad when he decided to leave; but I understand. Believe me, it's a daily grind."
KELLY RIPA, ON REGIS PHILBIN LEAVING

That's some support check

▶ Evangelista

To all the deadbeat dads currently running from your child support obligations — pay up and be thankful that at least your baby mama isn't **Linda Evangelista**. The model is seeking $46,000 a month in child support from billionaire Francois Henri-Pinault, the father of her 4-year-old son.

The payments — called "probably the largest support order in the history of the family court" — would cover round-the-clock nannies, drivers and security detail. "On days when I do not work, I am working on my image," Evangelista says.

"Working on my image" is a wonderful way to say "unemployed," isn't it?

Free workout for stars of 'Bachelorette'

It must be great to be a Bachelorette. Not only do you get a fake fiance — but you're also offered a real gym membership! Now that Penn Dental student **Ashley Hebert** has accepted the proposal of NYC native **JP Rosenbaum**, both the New York Sports Clubs and Philadelphia Sports Clubs have offered the couple free memberships for the duration of their engagement. Smart cookies — that will be a free six-month membership at best. Until then, maybe the **Bolt Bus** will offer free bus tickets to help with the commute?

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or less.

Today, Lindsay Lohan is having trouble walking, Donald Glover is tired, Demi Moore is putting a positive spin on things and Seth MacFarlane is goofing off at work.

▶ @lindsaylohan
Omg, I'm so embarrassed, paparazzi just blinded me with flashes again, as I was walking into dinner. They pushed me and I tripped :(hurt...

▶ @DonaldGlover
My twitter muscle has atrophied.

▶ @mrskutcher
Pain can be a gift just not yet revealed. It all depends on how you choose to react to it. Remember it is happening for you, not to you!

▶ @SethMacFarlane
All the autotune in the world still doesn't sound as cool as talking into a desk fan.

MacFarlane

Talking points

Janet Jackson is engaged?

Janet Jackson is reportedly engaged to Qatari businessman and billionaire **Wissam Al Mana** — and has been for almost a year, according to Hollyscoop. Sources say the secret proposal happened last year, but Jackson was in the middle of a tour and wasn't ready to go public with it yet. "Janet's telling friends that an official engagement will come by summer's end, and that she and Wissam will marry in late 2011," says a source.

▶ Al Mana and Jackson.

Lea 'short stuff' Michele

"Glee" star **Lea Michele** is the first to admit she doesn't have the most conventional Hollywood look. "I'm 5-foot-3. I don't look like a lot of other people, you know what I mean? I look like I'm 12," the 25-year-old actress tells Harper's Bazaar. And it's not just her small statures that has been seen by others as a possible career impediment, she admits. "How many managers told me, 'Get a nose job. You're not pretty enough'? But I proved them wrong," she says.

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DOROTHY ROBINSON'S WORD BLOG

Winehouse was going to wed?

Amy Winehouse had lots of plans for the future when her life came to an end last month. Aside from her plans to adopt a young girl from St. Lucia, the tragic singer was reportedly planning to marry boyfriend **Reg Traviss**, according to the Sun. "Amy was adamant about sorting herself out. Reg's proposal made her even more determined. She didn't want to carry on the way she was," a source says. "She wanted nothing more than to be his wife and to start a family with him. She wanted to get rid of her demons so badly."

myentertainment

A mug shot, mic gun and mini fists

1: Today in celebrity mug shots: Here's the booking photo of DJ Sam Ronson, who was arrested for a DUI after being pulled over for speeding on Monday— at 10:30 a.m.

2: Play on, playa! Larry King and Shawn, his on-and-off again wife (if there is such a thing), hosted the Beverly Hills Police Department's "A National Night Out" on Tuesday. Watch that grip, Larry!

3: Ricky Gervais was all (fangy) smiles while leaving the set of "Late Show With David Letterman" at the Ed Sullivan Theater on Tuesday in New York City.

4: Supermodel Kate Moss was snapped on vacation in St. Tropez, France, on Wednesday.

5: Keri Hilson performed at the Cruzan Amphitheatre on Tuesday in West Palm Beach, Fla. It's hard to make out, but that's a microphone that looks like a gun. Way to be gangster for Palm Beach, Keri.

6: Singer Enrique Iglesias performed at MTV Live Georgia (that's the country, not the state) on Tuesday.

7: Comedian Lisa Lampanelli attended the GLAAD Manhattan: Brazilian Carnival on Tuesday in New York City.

1: SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE VIA GETTY IMAGES
2: JOHN M. HELLER/GETTY IMAGES
3: DONNA WARD/GETTY IMAGES
4: MARC PIASECKI/FILMMAGIC
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▶ Krauss

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Where to go & what to do

Going out

Classic DJ Throwdown
Friday, 7:30 p.m.
Institute of Contemporary Art
100 Northern Ave., Boston
$10-$15, 617-478-3103
www.icaboston.org
This is the first of the ICA's outdoor dances happening Fridays in August. Tonight's theme is classic turntable-ism. DJ Ninja B, DJ Nestley Quick, DJ Laz e Boy and DJ Leanski show off their old-school techniques with scratching, DJ battles and classic tunes. While you're there, you can check out "The Record" — ICA's vinyl-related exhibition.

Festivals

Summer Arts Fest
Saturday, 12 p.m.
Martini Shell
1015 Truman Pkwy., Hyde Park, free, 617-698-1802
www.neponset.org
This local community festival features chalk art, stamp printing, natural dyeing, something called "tattoo you," a group mural and bead-making — you know, all the stuff you used to do in the summer before you had annoying stuff like "a job" to attend.

Hungry Tiger Street Festival
Saturday, 7 p.m.
Union Square, Somerville
Free, 617-625-6600 ext. 2985
www.somervilleartscouncil.org
The Somerville Arts Council presents a food and art fest inspired by the night markets of the Eastern world, with live on-street cooking demonstrations (and of course sampling), performances and local artists — who, according to SAC's website, will also be "costuming visitors on sight with original one-of-a-kind wares unlike any you have ever seen before."

Music

Boston Urban Music Festival
Saturday, 5 p.m.
City Hall Plaza, Boston
Free, 617-635-3911
www.cityofboston.gov/arts
A free outdoor concert featuring performances by Mac Miller, Goapele, Moufy with Moe Pope, Fame or Juliet, Phunk Phenomenon, Frank White, Yung Fresh and Flem. Last year's concert drew more than 25,000 people, so if you don't want to go, don't pretend it's because no one's gonna be there.

Gaelic Storm
Thursday, 8 p.m.
Wilbur Theatre
246 Tremont St., Boston
$25-$45, 800-745-3000
www.thewilburtheatre.com
Check out this classic Scottish and Irish Celtic band who play both original and traditional songs. They are most famous for being the pub band in "Titanic" that Rose dances to. Since this exposure, they've been one of the top-selling acts in the genre.

▶ James Taylor stars in the cult classic film "Two-Lane Blacktop."

Movies

'Two-Lane Blacktop'
Friday, 7 p.m.
Harvard Film Archive
24 Quincy St., Cambridge
$7-$9, 617-496-3211
hcl.harvard.edu/hfa/
This cult film evokes the danger and excitement of the early 70's, when being cool and driving fast was all that mattered. Starring James Taylor and Beach Boys drummer Dennis Wilson, it features beautiful views of the old Route 66.

Theater

'Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead'
Through Aug. 13
Smith Theatre
101 St. Theresa Ave., West Roxbury
$15-$25, 617-325-4920 ext.383
www.brownpapertickets.com
Roxbury Latin presents Tom Stoppard's '60s classic, which looks at the events of "Hamlet" from the point of view of Hamlet's buddies, who Stoppard turns into existential clowns as they delve into heavy subjects like free will, futility and the value of art. You may appreciate normality anew after this trip of a play. MATTHEW DINARO

Men 65 and Older Needed for a Research Study

If you are a man age 65 or older, you may be eligible to participate in a research study to evaluate the actions of testosterone gel on walking, sexual function, energy, memory and low red blood cell count.

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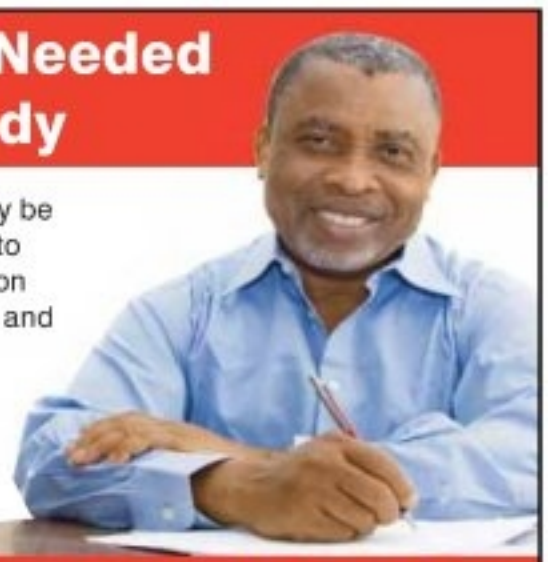

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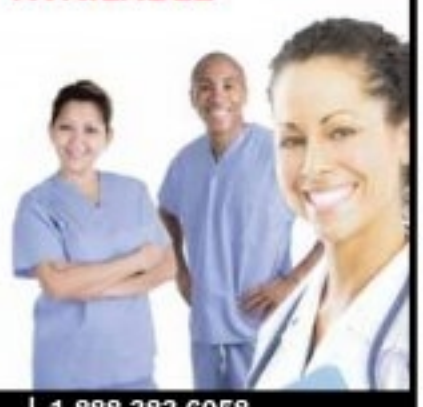

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Trusting his gut and finding 'The Voice'

Javier Colon on how he almost didn't audition for the television show that has earned him a vast new audience On performing with legendary Stevie Nicks

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

After winning "The Voice," Colon got to perform on "The Tonight Show."

Before he became famous for his voice this year, Javier Colon relied on another body part to guide him: his gut.

"'The Voice' came along and I almost didn't do that," he says. "It was kind of a last-minute decision to audition."

Colon, 33, was crowned the first winner of the NBC talent competition in June and learned to continue following that instinct. His audition performance of "Time After Time" became an instant highlight of the show's freshman season.

"I just wanted somebody to turn around. I would have been happy with any of them," he says. "If I had the option to choose from several coaches, I wanted to go on a gut feeling."

Colon impressed all four celebrity mentors, most notably, his choice, Maroon 5 frontman Adam Levine.

"I really wanted to go with someone who thought I'd be an asset to their team, and Adam was so animated and enthusiastic. He just made it very clear he wanted me."

Before the show, Colon released two albums with Capitol Records before being dropped in 2006. His previous work was more R&B based, and he hopes to do music he's more passionate about, with a pop singer-songwriter feel, like James Taylor.

"I try to write songs that move people emotionally as opposed to just physically. I like to tell stories," he says.

He plans to have an album out in November, to keep himself fresh in the public's mind. Until then, he will tour with seven other contestants to perform songs from the competition. New material, which could include collaborations with Levine and fellow coach Cee-Lo Green, will wait for personal shows — but Colon is still excited.

"I'm going to try to write some good songs," he says. "Which will hopefully cross over to whatever genre."

MELISSA SAVIGNANO
letters@metro.us

In the Nicks of time

Colon has already won the respect of established artists, including Pat Monahan of Train, Miranda Lambert and Justin Bieber. Most notably, Stevie Nicks, who Colon sang "Landslide" with on the show's finale, invited him to sing it on her tour if he's in town. "I'm on a quest to get to where she is to do that," he says.

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Aug. 12
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Ke$ha
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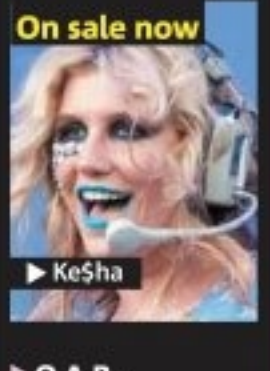


Dylan

Bob Dylan and His Band
Aug. 21
House of Blues
(On sale Friday)

STS9
Oct. 20
House of Blues
(On sale Friday)

The Civil Wars
Oct. 28
Berklee Performance Center
(On sale Friday)

In concert

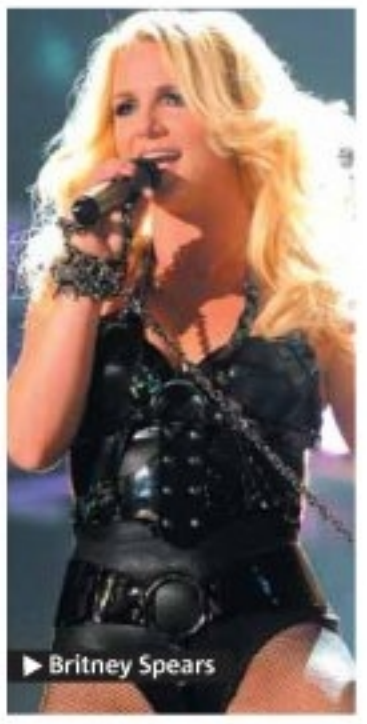
Bon Iver

Friday, 7 p.m.
House of Blues
15 Lansdowne St., Boston
It's hard not to fall in love with Justin Vernon's aching tunes. Returning with their self-titled sophomore album, Bon Iver and Vernon's unmistakable voice have grown from the indie music scene's best-kept secret into household-name status. Thank you, Kanye! On the upside, it looks like we'll be seeing more of Bon Iver; but on the downside, the band's newfound mainstream popularity means this concert is totally sold out.

Justin Vernon of Bon Iver

Britney Spears

with Nicki Minaj
Monday, 7 p.m.
TD Garden
100 Legends Way, Boston
Chart-topping divas Britney Spears and Nicki Minaj are bringing some serious girl power to the Garden. Monster MC Minaj will open for the reigning pop queen as part of Spears' Femme Fatale tour. The two high-profile stars are sure to put on a dance party that will be as much about the explosive visual spectacle as it is the music. LYNNE CARTY



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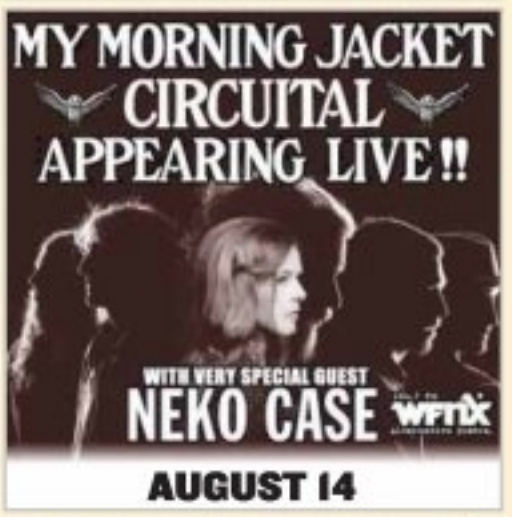

AUGUST 14

AUGUST 16

AUGUST 17

SAT. AUGUST 20

AUGUST 29

AUGUST 30

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going out

5 Reasons to go to the movies

Must-see

▶ Bateman and Reynolds

1 'The Change-Up' Body-switching comedies come around oh, every three years or so, but this one starring Jason Bateman and Ryan Reynolds might be one of the first to offer plenty of hilarious raunch along the way.

2 'Rise of the Planet of the Apes' Rather than a remake of the 1960s classic or the early aughts disaster, this "Apes" film shows the origins of a global primate takeover, co-starring James Franco and Freida Pinto.

3 'Crazy, Stupid, Love' Ryan Gosling goes against type as a super-smooth womanizer, while Steve Carell does anything but as a clumsy, newly-single suburban dad.

4 'Cowboys & Aliens' Harrison Ford and Daniel Craig face off in this sci-fi/western mash-up. Somehow still not convinced? Olivia Wilde plays their damsel in distress.

5 'The Smurfs' Katy Perry lends her voice to Smurfette, and Neil Patrick Harris plays a reluctant Smurf host in the live-action/CGI take on the cartoon.

METRO

How to make sure a restaurant Pops

South End favorite's new exec chef spices things up ◆ Patio also affords great people-watching

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ Patrons enjoy Pops on a summer's day.

Nosh On

LINDA LABAN
LINDA.LABAN@METRO.US

This spring saw a changing of the guard at neighborhood favorite Pops. The South End boite, a Frenchism truly deserved by the tiny restaurant, brought in new executive chef Amanda Howell, whose affection for bold flavors and satisfying comfort food, even in summer (what, you live on lettuce all summer?), has built a plucky menu with some striking variations on popular standards. Forget delicate slicing and dicing, chunky quartered beets are topped with crunchy toasted hazelnuts ($9) and the ahi tuna carpaccio comprises thick coiled slabs of fish, soft and juicy, and served with a spicy potato and apple salad ($13) plus a dash of fruit jam.

Howell gives the humble arctic char ($23) a regal setting atop a creamy polenta and adds a layer of tender spinach in between. Juices from all three layers combine, perfect for mopping with fresh ciabatta. The rich lobster mac and cheese ($19) is also a triple treat, brightened by spring peas. Good things come in threes? A creamy cold coconut rice pudding served with coconut gelato and grilled pineapple ($8) confirms that at Pops, they do.

Pops Restaurant & Bar
560 Tremont St., Boston
617-695-1250
www.popsrestaurant.net

Take it outside:

The Pops Tremont Street patio is perfect for people-watching, and the pretty conservatory inside overlooking the garden provides shelter from heat and summer storms. The restaurant is hoping to expand its outdoor seating into the garden, too, depending on city-planning permission. The "Five Bucks a Pop" bar menu is a nice way to try some of Howell's dishes, including her mushroom caps stuffed with short rib. For summer, the Good Thyme cocktail — a riff on the refreshing "John Daly" made with herb tea, vodka and thyme-infused simple syrup — matches that price ($5), too.

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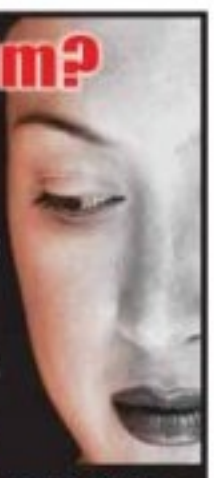
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Letters

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Nothing left to change

The recent circus of raising the debt ceiling was accomplished with smoke and mirrors. Our military is going to be neutered in an era of rising Chinese economic and military strength while the floodgates of illegals remains open. Those who questioned our obscene spending binges are called "terrorists" by Vice President Biden with no outrage from the press. The Tea Party is the only force who is not yet influenced by Soros, Goldman Sachs and the Federal Reserve types who have been driving us to the edge of the cliff for years. When the media attacks something that might turn this country around from a death dive into the ground, you had better question their motives! We are running out of options to avert a total meltdown of our society. Chairman Obama has almost competed the most amazing transformation in the history of the world.

JOSEPH DUPONT, VIA E-MAIL

Fiscal responsibility

We have given the keys to the bar to a bunch of alcoholics. There will be no booze left when we return to check on it. That is how I see this new debt ceiling raise. It is the creation of a "Super Congress" that will continue to tax the American people, claiming that we need to live in austerity while they continue to own their mansions, yachts, jets, expensive cars, etc.

JAMES WINSTANLEY, VIA E-MAIL

"After all the acquisitions the Jets made during free agency, you would think he would be confident enough that he wouldn't have to paint a bull's-eye on the back of the Pats! If Randy Moss would reconsider his one-year offer, I believe he would get his Super Bowl ring!"

JEFF HURLEY, BOSTON, ON REX RYAN, NY JETS COACH

The politics of fear

I find it utterly unconscionable that two agenda items that normally pass as a matter of course were used as poker chips — the debt ceiling raise and the FAA authorization continuing resolution. Though default was narrowly averted at great national cost, a crushing blow to the construction industry was dealt due to the epic failure concerning the FAA. Not only were 4,000+ FAA employees furloughed, but number of stop-work orders to engineering and construction contractors, most likely soon to be including my company's program, grows daily. The madness must stop. It cannot wait for Congress to come back from vacation.

AARON J. SAMUELSON, VIA E-MAIL

Horoscope

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Constructive results are possible with whatever it is you're doing — but only as long as you perform in accordance with your highest standards.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Several significant objectives can be accomplished, provided you're not saddled with a co-worker who has little interest in doing a bit of work.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Even though, upon reflection, you can see how you could do things better than what you promised, stick to the terms of your initial commitment. It would be far worse to get in over your head at the last second.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** You'll get much more than a paycheck if you render your best effort toward your job. Your self-esteem and self-worth will be greatly enhanced in ways hard to come by.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Bring into play all of your instincts, your memory and your logic if you find yourself involved in a difficult endeavor. Collectively, they can help you accomplish the impossible.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** It might take all of the gumption you've got to accomplish a critical assignment, but what you will get out of it personally will be worth it — and that isn't likely to mean money.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Don't complain from the sidelines about something you're involved with that is being mishandled. Roll up your sleeves and shape things up yourself — from top to bottom if need be.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** If you've accumulated a bit of a surplus lately, don't blow it all on having a good time. At least use some of it on loved ones who deserve it.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Not everybody is as perceptive as you tend to be, so if you believe you can better the ideas of what others have to offer, let your thoughts be known.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Instead of always expecting more from others, make it your turn to devise some ways to repay them for all they've done for you in the past. They'll be happy, and you'll feel good too.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** When attempting to complete a complicated task, don't pretend to know things you really don't. Seek out the information you need.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Although your intuitive insights might be a bit more accurate than usual, it will still be up to you to find a way to execute them as cleverly as you envision them. BERNICE BEDE OSOL

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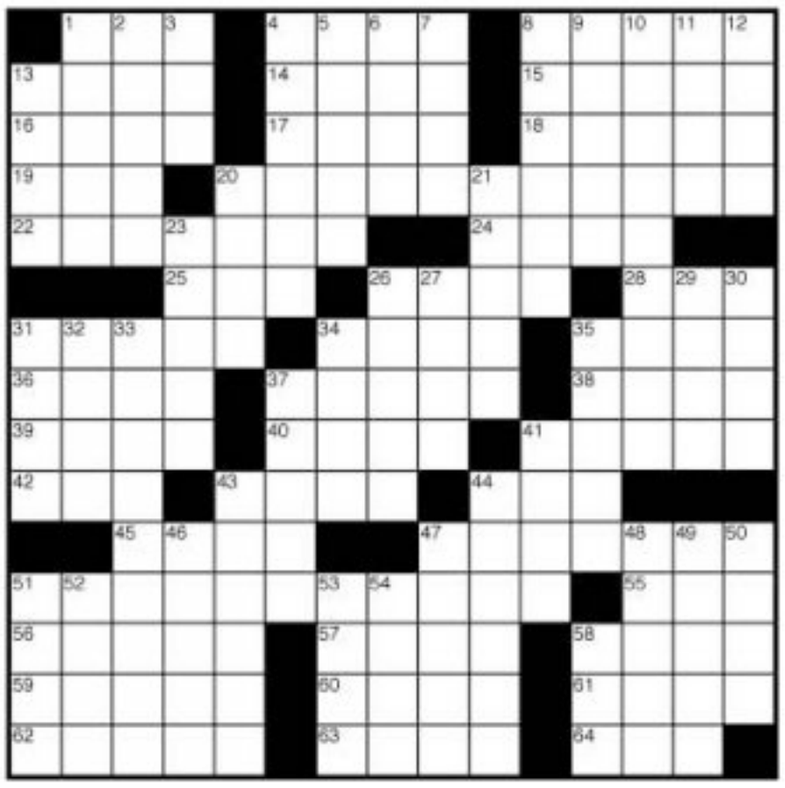
Across
1 Tolerated
4 Host's plea
8 Like some trousers
13 Candied tubers
14 Taft's state
15 Video-game pioneer
16 Singer Adams
17 Hit on the noggin
18 Barber's leather
19 Util. bill
20 Nickels and dimes (2 wds.)
22 Approximate
24 Dog-owner's shout
25 PFC mail drop
26 Got in debt
28 Windy and cold
31 Builder's sheet
34 __ __ a-brac
35 Potluck choice
36 Right after
37 Fissure
38 Gambling stake
39 Brand for Bowser
40 Rusted-out ship
41 Tempus __
42 Earth, in combos
43 Hobby shop buys
44 Triangular sail
45 Cold-shoulder
47 Rug or cat
51 Iridescent flies
55 Sweater sz.
56 Not built-up
57 Tusked animal
58 Favoritism
59 Comic-strip queen
60 Venue
61 Drains, as energy
62 Raw-fish delicacy
63 Trudge
64 Lime cooler

Down
1 Weighed down
2 Griffith or Zola
3 Mao __-tung
4 Baroque style
5 Photo session
6 French wines
7 Facebook user's nudge
8 Clobbered
9 It makes scents
10 Storing up
11 Hot rum drink
12 Cry of surprise
13 Abominable Snowman
20 Pool lengths
21 Verify
23 Hobby knife (hyph.)
26 Dreaded exams
27 Oil-lamp cord
29 __ spumante
30 Build an appetite
31 Sweater flaw
32 Big name in soccer
33 Some revelations
34 Champagne word
35 Finger-paints
37 Slacks material
41 Evergreens
43 Genghis's grandson
44 Hissed at
46 Moor
47 Aristotle's teacher
48 Epic of Troy
49 Wide open
50 Gangbuster Eliot
51 Bikini tops
52 Doozie
53 Recipe meas.
54 Elbow grease
58 Youth org.



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7			1	3	9	6		
					6	2		9
				1			8	7
8								4
6	1			5				
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		5	8	2	3			6
2	6	9						

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

	3			1		4		
					6	9		8
7	9			8			6	
5			8					
4		3	1		9	6		5
					3			4
	5			9			1	6
8		1	7					
		9		6			8	

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

S	T	A	B	■	A	T	T	I	C	■	M	A	D	E
A	B	B	A	■	C	O	U	G	H	■	A	V	O	N
L	A	I	C	■	H	A	N	O	I	■	L	E	V	I
T	R	E	K	K	E	D	■	R	E	H	I	R	E	D
■	■	■	S	A	D	■	■	■	F	I	B	■	■	■
W	I	S	P	Y	■	S	O	L	■	P	U	G	E	T
A	N	T	I	■	S	C	R	I	M	P	■	R	A	E
F	U	R	N	I	T	U	R	E	P	O	L	I	S	H
T	I	A	■	T	U	B	I	N	G	■	A	L	E	E
S	T	Y	L	E	■	A	N	S	■	P	U	L	S	E
■	■	■	U	M	P	■	■	■	P	E	G	■	■	■
Q	U	O	N	S	E	T	■	P	I	N	H	O	L	E
T	R	I	G	■	K	A	P	O	K	■	O	V	I	D
I	S	L	E	■	O	P	I	N	E	■	F	A	M	E
P	A	S	S	■	E	S	T	E	R	■	F	L	A	N

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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technology

Xbox summer

▶ "Bastion" is "very nearly the world's most perfect" role-playing game.

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New downloadable games at your fingertips
Microsoft offers sharp-shooting role-playing games and another great opportunity to be God of your own universe

It's hot out there and barbecues are overrated. Stay indoors and play video games. Every summer, Microsoft releases a cadre of downloadable titles for their Xbox Live platform. We check out two of the five games that make up the "Summer of Arcade."

▶ Create your own world, "From Dust."

"From Dust"
Publisher: Ubisoft
Cost: $15
Grade: ●●●●○

Ever since "Populous" graced PCs in the late 80s, titles where we role-play as God have entertained gamers the world over. There's just something cool about guiding those simple tribal folk to enlightenment. Enter "From Dust," one of the more unique God games on the block.

First of all, you are not omniscient. You only control the land. This means you'll be spending a lot of time protecting your citizens from floods, fires and whatever else plagued our silly ancestors. The game also wisely places emphasis on cultivation. The more vegetation you spread across a map, the more wildlife and skills your villagers acquire. Watch out, though. Later levels are harder than inventing the wheel.

Sidescroller

LAWRENCE BONK
LAWRENCE.BONK@METRO.US

"Bastion"
Publisher: Warner Bros. Interactive
Cost: $15
Grade: ●●●●○

"Bastion" is very nearly the world's most perfect action RPG. There are so many weapons and items to upgrade it'll make even the most OCD-stricken among us jump for joy. The controls are tight and fluid, feeling more like a 2-D Zelda title than your traditional hack-and-slash.

The game features an omnipresent narrator, who comments on just about everything you do. The world can seem a mite claustrophobic, however. It would benefit from a few more branching paths. Still — for RPG fans, there could be no better place to drop 15 bucks.

MIXED EMOTIONS

Revs' national team vet Feilhaber sad to see Bradley go, excited for Klinsmann era ‘I'd like to think that we're on the rise,' he says Mexico roster likely today

Revolution standout and U.S. Soccer veteran Benny Feilhaber this week reacted with optimism — and a twinge of nostalgia — to Jurgen Klinsmann replacing Bob Bradley atop the men's national team.

"Bob was the coach that gave me the opportunity with the national team for the first time, so I'm indebted to him and very grateful for that," said Feilhaber, who has made 38 appearances for the USMNT. "So it's sad to see him go. He's been a good coach for the national team, and someone that's always believed in me."

Of course, the U.S. hadn't lived up to lofty expectations in recent years, crashing out of the 2010 World Cup and falling to archrival Mexico in this year's Gold Cup final.

"Moving forward, Jurgen is obviously a guy that's got a great knowledge for the game," Feilhaber said. "He's played in a bunch of top leagues; he's managed at the top leagues. So he's a guy that's going to be looking to build the team from here on out, and keep improving our team and hopefully create his own success."

Klinsmann's first chance will come Aug. 10, when the U.S. meets Mexico in an exhibition game.

"I'd like to think that we're on the rise," Feilhaber said. "It's not a good thing when you've plateaued and you're not improving yourselves and your team. I think the Gold Cup was a speed bump."

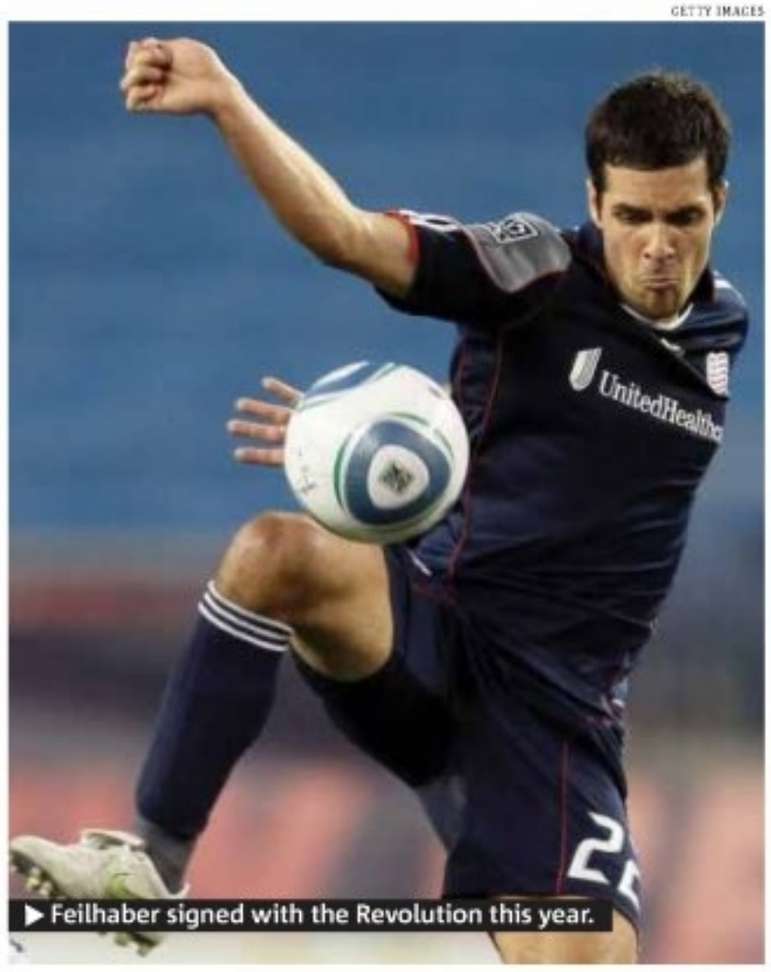
JIMMY TOSCANO

Roster day

Klinsmann is expected to release a 20-man roster for the USMNT's Aug. 10 game versus Mexico today.

The announcement was expected yesterday, but U.S. Soccer said Klinsmann was busy contacting players individually.

GETTY IMAGES



Feilhaber signed with the Revolution this year.

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Wednesday, August 17th	12:00PM-4:00PM
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Friday, August 19th	12:00PM-4:00PM
Saturday, August 20th	12:00PM-4:00PM
Sunday, August 21st	12:00PM-4:00PM

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Report: A-Rod faces poker ban

Even on the DL, Alex Rodriguez found himself in the headlines yesterday.

And not for a good reason, either.

Rodriguez, who is expected to test his surgically repaired right knee on the field today, is facing a potential suspension as Major League Baseball investigates his alleged involvement in illegal, high-stakes poker games, according to online reports.

"We take this very seriously and have been investigating this matter since the initial allegation," MLB said in a statement. "As part of the investigation, the commissioner's office will interview Mr. Rodriguez."

Rodriguez could be suspended if his attendance is confirmed because he has been warned about gambling in the past, ESPN reported. METRO

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Rodriguez is hitting .295 with 13 home runs and 52 RBIs this year.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Bedard starts for Red Sox

THE DEAL:

Erik Bedard is scheduled to make his Red Sox debut tonight against the Indians (7:10 p.m., NESN, WEEI). The newest Boston pitcher will face old friend Justin Masterson in the finale of a four-game home set against Cleveland.

ANALYSIS:

A night after Sox legend Tim Wakefield's latest shot at win No. 200, Bedard is going for No. 1. And Boston could really use it. Even though Clay Buchholz isn't officially done for the season, his return is very much in doubt. **With the Yankees coming to town for a massive set this weekend, a strong outing by Bedard would be a huge emotional boost.** But how much he really offers is questionable.

Bedard has given up three or fewer earned runs in 13 of his 16 starts this year. But he's only taken the mound once since July 27.

Bedard is 55-48 for his career

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Show Produced by: Ieasha James

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Performances by: Thee Slap Bracelets, Lil Phunk, Stalez Dance Company, Mattapan Drill & Drum Corps & Young Vokal

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Choreographers: Ieasha James, SO4Real, Tiffany Burrell & Endira Ellis

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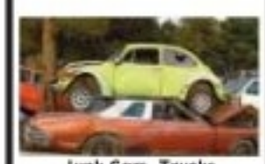

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